Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 3, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraphs:

--Figure 1 is a cross section view of a screen mat in accordance with the invention; ~~and~~

Figure 2 is a cross section view taken along line II-II of Figure 1; and

Figure 3 is a side view of a cylindrical screen basket formed from the screen mat of Figure 1.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--This application is a continuation-in-part of copending United States Patent Application Serial Number 09/776,320 filed February 2, 2001, now abandoned.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 15 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The middle rod in Figure 1 shows the length measurements of the rod, which has an overall height H. The protrusions are spaced at a distance h_1 to which 0.1 mm < h_1 < 6 mm applies, from the imbedded end of the rod. The rod 1 projects into the supporting element with a height h, where the ration of h to H should preferably be larger than 0.5. When the screen mat 10 is rolled to form a cylindrical screen basket, the surfaces 5 of the supporting element 2 are pressed into engagement with the projecting section of the rod on the side ~~facing away from the direction of flow F~~, and exert a clamping force 11 on the rod 1 to obtain better fastening. This applies if the supporting element 2 is made in a T shape. If an I shape is used, the rod 1 is not pressed together. The supporting element 2 can also be made in other shapes than a T or I, e.g. square, rectangular, square with rounded corners, rectangular with rounded corners, with the rounding on only one or on several corners.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 29 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The ~~protrusions~~ indentations provided in the supporting element 2 to hold the rod 1 can have clearance equivalent to the angle α ~~on the side facing away from the flow~~. With the cylindrical shape of the screen basket this avoids plastic deformation in the supporting element 2. Clearance angle α has a value of one to ten degrees, preferably two to five degrees. Most commonly, clearance angle α has a value of about five degrees.--